

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

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1. A method of converting a personal computer for communicating information on a broadband communication network, said personal computer having a user and a physical location, comprising:

determining whether said physical location falls within a set of service boundaries for said broadband communication network;

if said physical location falls within said service boundaries, electronically offering said user access to said broadband communication network;

receiving from said user an electronic order accepting said offer;

remotely qualifying said personal computer for said broadband communication network by determining whether said personal computer meets predetermined acceptance criteria for use of said broadband communication network; and

fulfilling said order by initiating an automation agent on said personal computer to interact with a user and thereby configure said personal computer for access to said broadband communication network.

2. The conversion method of claim 1, wherein said broadband communication network is a DSL network.

3. The conversion method of claim 2, wherein said qualifying step further comprises using a narrowband modem to contact a DSL line qualification server to test a physical line outside of said broadband communication network.

4. The conversion method of claim 1, wherein said broadband communication network is a cable network.

5. The conversion method of claim 4, wherein qualifying step further comprises detecting a carrier signal from said broadband communication network.

6. The conversion method of claim 5, wherein said carrier signal has a signal strength and a set of error codes, and wherein said qualifying step is based at least in part upon said signal strength and said error codes.

7. The conversion method of claim 1, wherein said user is selected for said offer based on preestablished criteria.

8. The conversion method of claim 6, wherein at least some of said criteria are stored in a subscriber profile database.

9. The conversion method of claim 1, wherein said broadband communication network is an ISDN network.

10. The conversion method of claim 1, wherein said broadband communication network is a wireless network.

11. A system for configuring a personal computer for communicating over a broadband communication network, said system comprising:

an automation agent software program residing on said personal computer;

and

an automation server remote from but in electrical communication with said personal computer, wherein said automation server is configured to receive from said personal computer an electronic order, in response to such order to remotely qualify said personal computer for said broadband communication network by determining whether said personal computer meets predetermined acceptance criteria for use of said broadband communication network; and automatically fulfilling said order by initiating said automation agent on said personal computer to configure said

personal computer for access to said broadband communication network.

12. The configuration system of claim 11, wherein said broadband communication network is a DSL network.

13. The configuration system of claim 12, wherein said automation agent instantiates a narrowband modem to contact a DSL line qualification server to test a physical line.

14. The configuration system of claim 11, wherein said broadband communication network is a cable network.

15. The configuration system of claim 14, wherein said automation agent instantiates detection of a carrier signal from said broadband communication network.

16. The configuration system of claim 15, wherein said carrier signal has a signal strength and a set of error codes, and wherein said signal strength and said error codes are used by said automation agent when qualifying said personal computer.

17. The configuration system of claim 11, wherein said user is selected for said offer based on preestablished criteria.

18. The configuration system of claim 17, wherein at least some of said criteria are stored in a subscriber profile database.

19. The configuration system of claim 11, wherein said broadband communication network is an ISDN network.

20. The configuration system of claim 11, wherein said broadband communication network is a wireless network.

21. Control software for configuring a personal computer for communicating over a broadband network, said personal computer having a user, said control software comprising:

an automation agent software program residing on said personal computer, wherein said automation agent software comprises:

a network availability module for determining whether said broadband communication network is accessible to said personal computer within a set of predetermined parameters; and

an order fulfillment module for guiding said user to input a set of required configuration information and to guide said user through said configuration from start to finish

22. The control software of claim 21, wherein said automation agent software further comprises a communications module for communicating said set of required configuration information to an automation server.

23. The control software of claim 22, wherein said broadband communication network is a DSL network.

24. The control software of claim 23, wherein said network availability module instantiates a narrowband modem to contact a DSL line qualification server to test a physical line.

25. The control software of claim 22, wherein said broadband communication network is a cable network.

26. The control software of claim 25, wherein said network availability module instantiates detection of a carrier signal from said broadband communication network.

27. The control software of claim 26, wherein said carrier signal has a signal strength and a set of error codes, and wherein said signal strength and said error codes are used by said network availability module when qualifying said personal computer.

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28. The control software of claim 22, wherein said broadband communication network is an ISDN network.

29. The control software of claim 22, wherein said broadband communication  
10 network is a wireless network.

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